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Portuguese Embassy.
11. Belgrave Square.
London. SW1X 8PP

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16th July, 1990

Mrs. Carmel Budiardjo,
Organising Secretary,
The Indonesia Human Rights Campaign,
111, Northwood Road,
Thornton Heath,
Surrey, CR7 8HW

Dear Mrs. Budiardjo,

Further to the Ambassador's letter of the 27th March 1990, I am now able to reply to some of the points you have raised in your letter of the 14th of March 1990.

With regard to the question of the presence of representatives of the people of East-Timor in the consultations under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General with a view to find a just and comprehensive solution acceptable to the international community for the problem of East-Timor, I quote the Portuguese Foreign Minister in a recent interview to a Portuguese newspaper which outlines the present Portuguese position:

"I think that any solution which we may try to reach by means of negotiation for the question of East-Timor will always have to take into account, in order to be effective and to offer peace and tranquility to the territory, the general consent of the population and, in particular, of those who continue to fight, with great suffering, for their rights. Otherwise

the experience shows that the conflict will continue with its sequence of human rights violations and consequently the suffering of the people of East-Timor. From our part, we have regularly and at several levels maintained contact with their representative movements in order to know their views and their sensitivity about the situation and about the action we have been undertaking.

The Secretary-General being reponsible for the mandate entrusted to him by the General Assembly it is for him to decide on his own action, on which interlocutors will be included in the consultations and on the opportune moment for their intervention in the process. We do not consider it necessary for the moment to raise the subject with the Ambassador Perez de Cuellar."

As far as the reply from His Excellency the President of the Republic to Monsignor Belo's letter, we would like to draw your attention to the explanation which is given by the President's office in the article of the Portuguese "Expresso" emphasizing that the Head of State continues to endeavour at every possible occasion the defence of the rights of the people of East-Timor.

Yours sincerely,

Graça Andresen Guimarães

(Graça Andresen Guimarães)
First Secretary

Parliamentarians for East Timor
244A Upper Street, London N1 1RU

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I sent you
a copy of
this
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With the Compliments
of

Carmel Budiardjo

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Founder Members
Satsuki Eda MHR (Japan), Tony Lamb MHR (Australia), Lord Avebury (UK)